EXHIBIT J

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Dear Co-authors,

Via Email: sachith.dissanayake@rochester.edu;
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ddurkee@UR.Rochester.edu;
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hwadhura@ur.rochester.edu;

I am writing to you to address the letter prepared by Stephen Dewhurst and the University of Rochester and its attorney, Leslie Thornton from Ropes & Gray, to be signed by you, a co-author of the Lu-H-N Paper and intended by you to be directed to Tobias Roedel and the Editorial Board of Nature. I note that as the corresponding author of the Lu-H-N paper, I was not consulted with about your proposed communication to Nature about the Lu-H-N paper. This is completely inappropriate as I am the corresponding author for the Lu-H-N paper.

Although I am concerned that the University of Rochester will retaliate against me for attempting to protect my professional and personal reputation from the defamatory statements being made by you as a signatory to the letter prepared by the University of Rochester and its legal counsel, I am obligated to defend myself and notify you of my request that you cease and desist from signing and/or sending the proposed letter.

As such, I find it necessary to express my deep concern about the defamatory and damaging nature of the statements contained in your proposed letter and to request that you immediately cease and desist from further publication, dissemination, or communication of these false and injurious claims.

I am greatly troubled by the serious allegations and insinuations that your letter contains regarding my professional conduct and ethical character. These allegations include claims of a "lack of transparency," "lack of scientific diligence in data collection," and "data manipulation" on my part. Such assertions not only lack merit but also have the potential to harm my reputation and standing in the scientific community significantly.

Furthermore, your letter suggests that my actions were responsible for preventing some of you from raising concerns earlier due to your perceived academic and financial dependence on me. I understand the complexities that can arise in academic relationships, but it is essential to approach concerns with transparency, professionalism, and a commitment to the pursuit of truth

rather than making unfounded allegations after the fact. I have never prevented you from communicating with me or with anybody else about any concerns you have about any matter. To say otherwise is false and defamatory.

Considering the gravity of these allegations and the potential harm they can inflict upon my professional and personal life, I must insist on the following actions:

1. Immediate Cease and Desist: I demand that you immediately cease and desist from any further communication, dissemination, or publication of your letter or its contents, whether in written or verbal form.

2. Public Retraction: If already sent, I request that you issue a public retraction of your letter, acknowledging that the allegations made therein are unsubstantiated and that I have acted with integrity in the preparation and submission of the Lu-H-N Paper.

3. Written Apology: I expect a written apology to be sent to me for the harm caused by your letter's false accusations.

Failure to comply with these demands will leave me with no choice but to consider pursuing all available legal remedies to protect my reputation and interests, including the potential initiation of a defamation lawsuit. I make this known to you at the risk that the University of Rochester will retaliate against me for asserting my right to protect and defend my personal and professional reputation against defamation. In the face of that potential retaliation, I am offering this opportunity to avoid such considerations.

I strongly urge you to seek independent legal counsel, not the University of Rochester legal counsel that has prepared the letter for you to sign, so that you can better understand the potential legal consequences of your actions and to consider the ethical implications of making baseless allegations against a colleague and fellow scientist.

Sincerely,

Ranga Dias

cc: Renato Perucchio (rlp@me.rochester.edu)
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